

REMARKS

Claims 42, 44, 47, and 48 have been amended. Claims 36-49 are pending. A Petition for Extension of Time (three-months) is being filed concurrently herewith. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this and other applications. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-referenced application in light of the amendments and following remarks.

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The objection is respectfully traversed. Claim 44 has been amended to depend from claim 49. Since claim 44 does not depend from claim 43, the drawing objection should now be withdrawn.

Claims 42, 47, and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 42 has been amended to have proper antecedent basis. Specifically, claim 42 now recites "a grooved surface." Claims 47 and 48 have been editorially amended to now recite "an inclined surface and an air vent [which] are provided in [a] curved portion approximately perpendicular to [an] inlet of [a] sub-passage." Applicants' specification, pg. 10, line 11 through pg. 11, line 17, and FIG. 7 provides support for the amendments. The Examiner's approval is respectfully solicited.

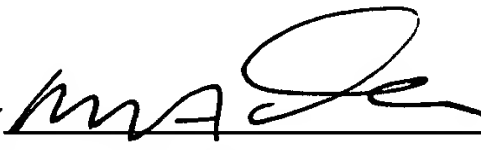
Claims 39-42, 46, and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Watanabe. Reconsideration is requested. Watanabe's effective U.S. filing date is September 14, 2001. The present application has a U.S. filing date of May 17, 2001 -- prior to September 14, 2001. Consequently, Watanabe is not prior art. Since Watanabe is not prior art the rejection of claims 39-42 should be withdrawn.

Claims 36-38, 43, 45, 47 and 48 should be allowable along with claims 39-42, 46 and 49, and for other reasons.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to review and pass this application to issue.

Dated: June 6, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Mark J. Thronson

Registration No.: 33,082

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &
OSHINSKY LLP

2101 L Street NW

Washington, DC 20037-1526

(202) 785-9700

Attorney for Applicants